

TOPICS OF THE TIMES

Poorly cooked rood often drives men to drink and women to suicide.

"An Indiana man wants a divorce because his wife chews tobacco." Fine cut or plug?

When it comes to keeping out of the penitentiary women are more successful than men.

Buy your own home in the country, and become a perennial instead of a hardy annual.

A pastor says he wants to go to heaven by the quickest route. He is not, however, in a hurry to start.

A Western man has the distinction of having survived the professional treatment of twenty-six physicians.

It is evident that the Grand Vizier of Morocco isn't popular among his wives. Three of them tried to poison him.

A man was found wandering about Chicago in a dazed condition with \$7,000 in his pocket. That's enough to daze anybody.

Everybody counts in a census. One doesn't have to be a baseball pitcher or a banker to have his name recorded in Uncle Sam's big book.

A celebrated oculist says that people seldom see things as they are. Particularly is this true when they look at get-rich-quick schemes.

Leguminotherapy, this alleged new science of rutabagas and things, can never hope to be popular unless it changes its name to something easier.

It seems to be the consensus of opinion among public men that Governor Hughes would make an excellent Supreme Court Justice in spite of his whiskers.

According to a Chicago judge, a woman has a right to bounce a rolling pin off her husband's head. Does the same ruling apply in the case of a stove poker.

A New England woman detective is to marry a millionaire. Perhaps he thinks in view of the attacks on wealth, now the fashion, that a detective will come handy in the family.

The girls who take the domestic science courses at the Kansas Agricultural College have to make themselves a complete outfit, from underclothing to a silk dress, before they can take a degree. Most of their grandmothers had to do their own dressmaking without getting a diploma for doing it. But whether taught at home or in school, it is a useful thing for young women to learn—and it is fascinating work besides.

Some interesting statistics about the migratory habits of a portion of the human race have been collected by a great city gas company. It was found, for example, that in the course of thirty-two months 132 families moved into and out of one tenement building. During the same period a single apartment sheltered twenty-five different families. Surely the philosophy of Poor Richard must be at fault for in these cases "three removes" could not have been "as bad as a fire."

Artemus Ward said that a comic paper was no worse for having a joke in it now and then, and his words have ever since been quoted as embodying the gospel of wit and humor. The great form of American mirth is the joke. "It is to laugh—that's our creed in a sentence. Misplaced capitals, awkward spelling, impossible grammar, infinite incongruity of situation, endless word-play, grotesquery of action and character, heightened by pictures equally funny, these are the things that make us laugh. We are quick to catch the point of a cartoon, to enjoy the exaggeration of a caricature. But to smile at the mock-serious, to be amused by satire, is a refinement as yet beyond us.

Probably half in jest, Anthony J. Drexel, multi-millionaire of Philadelphia, expressed his consternation over the cost of a breakfast at one of New York's splurge hotels. He ordered two eggs and a cup of coffee and the bill was \$1.75. "A man's wages for a day," he remarked—"not for me," he added, "but for many just as good a man." Of course, the many just-as-good men don't pay that price for eggs. They can buy a dozen for what Mr. Drexel paid for his coffee, and they can drink coffee a week on what Mr. Drexel paid for one of his eggs. Nevertheless, the price Mr. Drexel pays has its influence upon what the common man pays. Under the cold storage system the great companies can hold up the supply of eggs, and then, if they can sell the fresh eggs

in New York to absurd prices for a monstrous price, they will add something to the price the common man pays for storage eggs. The rich people of to-day have a chance to make a dent upon the price of living by assuming the virtue, if they have it not, of demanding their money's worth, and refusing to give away their money simply because it comes easy. The virtues of abstinence are as open to the rich as to the poor.

Where there is a rapid growth in a country there is always a tendency to overestimate the population. This falls in with the plans of boomers and even gives pleasure to disinterested patriots. No doubt it is felt in Canada just now, and the fever of it may have got into the blood of Sydney Fisher, minister of agriculture, who predicts that the census of 1911 will show that the Dominion has 8,000,000 inhabitants. However this may be, there have been changes enough in the last ten years to make the development of Canada one of the most interesting studies of the time. During the latter part of the last century the growth of the country had been slow. The population, which was 4,324,810 in 1881, increased to 4,833,239 in 1891 and to 5,371,315 in 1901, making a small percentage for the twenty years. But though complete figures are lacking, it is certain that there has been an astonishing change since the beginning of the present century. The Province of Manitoba, which had a population of 255,211 in 1901, had increased to 355,033 in 1906, and in the same period Alberta had advanced from 72,841 to 185,412 and Saskatchewan from 91,460 to 257,763. In 1901 the number of people from the United States was placed at 127,899. The immigration from the United States alone in the year 1909 was more than 90,000, and the current has been strong for several years. It is to be noted also that the newcomers from this country take capital with them, and the estimate of the Canadian immigration commissioner is that these immigrants added to the wealth of western Canada at least \$90,000,000. That the country will prove attractive from now on is highly probable, because it offers inviting farms to settlers, and its fame as a wheat field is constantly increasing. The crop of last year was valued at \$120,000,000, and each year sees a large increase in the acreage devoted to wheat cultivation.

The Price of Fame.

It was in the office of one of the big theaters. A lot of actors were hanging around, a couple of journalists and a secretary or two. A young woman dropped in for a hasty greeting, and then paused a moment to speak to a very well-known actor whom she evidently met for the first time. The press agent's desk was open, and in a corner was a package of pictures of the celebrated actor. The latter looked them over, and as the young woman exclaimed that he should give her one he said, with an insinuating smile to the press agent: "Alas, they are not mine. They belong to Mr. Dash!"

"I can't give any away," said the latter. "Each one costs me 20 cents." "Surely that is cheap!" the young lady suggested.

The press agent ignored her and turned to the actor.

"Cheap? Do you think anybody would pay that much for you?"

And the young lady laughed and went without her picture.

A Question of Terms.



Mrs. Bronson—My husband is plain spoken; he calls a spade a spade.

Mrs. Woodson—So does mine, but I must decline to repeat what he calls the lawn mower.

He Was Short.

Chief of Detectives—Now give us a description of your missing cashier. How tall was he?

Business Man—I don't know how tall he was. What worries me is that he was \$25,000 short.—Philadelphia Record.

It Might Be Worse.

"My wife often says she could have married a better man."

"Cheer up. Some wives would threaten to get a divorce and do it."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

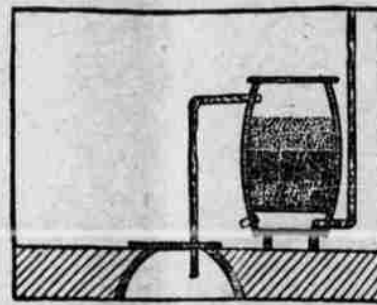
It's a sign that a small boy has a good disposition if he doesn't resent being told he looks like his father.

If a man could only unload his experience for half its cost



Economical Cistern Filter.

A practical filter is necessary for the cistern. One may be constructed of any good, sound oak barrel, as shown in the illustration herewith. One head is removed and several holes bored in it. It is then dropped inside and forms a false bottom, as shown, leaving a clear space between it and the bottom or head proper. Six or seven inches of coarse gravel or broken stone are next placed on the false bottom, and on this stone a layer of charcoal six or seven inches thick is placed, and on the charcoal a second layer of stone or gravel. In all it should be about eighteen or twenty inches thick. The water enters the



FILTER MADE OF A BARREL.

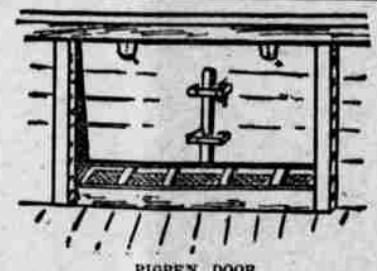
barrel at the bottom between the head and the false bottom through the regular down spout, which is clearly illustrated. It passed up through the gravel and charcoal and out at the top through a second pipe which leads to the cistern. The top layer of stone may be improved on by filling the voids between the stone with sand. The sand is covered with cheesecloth stretched on a wire and the cloth and wire held in place with one or two stones. A small wooden plug or faucet is placed at the lower end of the barrel to drain same after a rain or when washing out the filter. Give the barrel two or three coats of paint, provide a close fitting cover and your filter will do the work just as well as any twenty-five dollar filter in the land.

Unique Door for the Piggens.

A very convenient way of feeding pigs was observed in the swinehouse of a prominent breeder, an arrangement that made the tridally feedings a matter of so little difficulty that a child could place the feed before a pen of unruly noses.

The front of each pen was hinged at the top, swinging downward against the farther sides of the uprights, as here shown, the weight of the door being sufficient to hold it in place. On the front of the door is a vertical bar with a pin through the top, as here shown. This is held in place by two wooden blocks notched out to admit of the bars sliding up and down, the blocks being bolted to the door. If desired the home blacksmith could easily shape a piece of iron to perform the same duty.

At feeding time the bar is lifted and the door swung in past the trough, directly beneath. Then the bar is dropped, thus holding the door back of the trough. This keeps the hungry mob on the other side of the door while the feeder takes his time to clean the trough, if need be, and to pour in the feed. A few transverse



PIG PEN DOOR.

bars across the top of the trough prevent any unusually pliggish pig from crowding down the length of the trough to the exclusion of others. When ready to admit the pigs to the feed the bar is lifted and the door drops to its usual position. Any farmer can make such a device, all that is required, besides the lumber that would have to be used in any case, being the hinges.

Disposition of Breeders.

In breeding profitable horses care should be taken to select animals known to possess desirable qualities. Vicious mares should not be bred. Every year bad dispositioned horses send quite a number of persons to premature graves and cripple others, while the material damage they do is quite considerable.

Coal Tar Remedy for Mange.

For itch or mange, rubbing of tail or mane, wash thoroughly with warm soft water and soap, then rub in with brush a proper strength of coal tar dip used on sheep and dogs. Scrub every three or four days until cured. Disinfect stalls and harness also or you never will get rid of the pest.

Farmed Lands.

An exhaustive census investigation of farm interests throughout the United States showed that in the last ten years the total number of farms has increased 18 per cent. In the older States, from Ohio eastward, there has been going on for twenty years a tendency toward the amalgamation of farms distant from market into larger holdings. There are now almost three times as many farms as in 1870, and an unprecedented increase in the value of farm lands and live stock is the even more momentous fact revealed by this inquiry. The land in farms, with their buildings, improvements and live stock, is to-day almost \$30,000,000,000, a gain of 44 per cent in ten years. Present values are two and one-half times the farm values of thirty years ago. In the North Central States the increase in the value of farms is 43 per cent; in the South Central States, 58 per cent; in the North Atlantic, 13 per cent, and in the South Atlantic, 34 per cent.

Keeping Milk Utensils Clean.

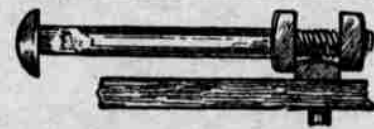
Discard the dishcloth and the dish-towel when the milk utensils are being washed. Wash them in warm water first, with plenty of some washing compound, and use a brush to do the work, but never a rag. Get into every part of them, after which rinse off with clean warm water, and then either put them in boiling water or pour boiling water over them. Stand the parts up so they will drain and use no cloth to wipe them. The hot surface will dry them quickly, and they will be clean. Leave the parts in a sunny place if possible.

Testing Poultry for the Table.

Some experts in choosing poultry for the table depend upon testing the breastbone, but sometimes dealers break this on purpose, then you are out. In a young chicken or goose the cartilage in the breastbone will bend easily. If the bird is a year old it will be brittle, and in an old fowl will break before it will bend to any amount. To make this test, take the end of the breastbone farthest from the head and make the attempt to bend it to one side. If it is young it will bend easily to either side.

Substitute for a Wrench.

If in need of a wrench and one is not at hand, take a large bolt and run on two nuts, allowing a space be-



tween them to fit over the nut to be turned. This will make a serviceable wrench, a substitute that will prove very beneficial in case of an emergency.—Thos. L. Parker, in Popular Mechanics.

Easily Made Fire Kindler.

Put about a gallon measure full of sawdust that has been well saturated with kerosene into a deep tray. Add enough melted rosin to stiffen the entire amount when it is cold. When cold, says Popular Mechanics, this mixture can be cut into squares and put away until ready for use. Put one square of the kindler into the fireplace of a stove and place the fuel on top. A hot fire will be produced in a short time after the lighting.

Beef and Dairy Cattle.

When a dairyman has faced the actual practice of selling cows from his herd for beef he will not feel encouraged over the outlook of combining beef and dairy qualities in the same herd. There is a popular prejudice against eating beef from an old, played out dairy cow, and there is no advantage in trying to combine the two qualities in one animal.

Grain Ration for Colts.

An experienced horseman has found equal parts of corn and oats ground together to be one of the best grain rations for growing colts. It furnishes elements needed for the production of fat, bone and muscle. Adding bran or linseed meal to the ration aids very much in keeping the bowels regular and avoids constipation, and in this way lessens the liability of disease.

Useful Little Suggestions.

Are rabbits and mice skinning you, young trees?

Cheap harness often proves an expensive instrument.

The most perfect milk can be quickly and easily spoiled.

It will cost no more per pound to grow a colt than a calf.

A little axle grease applied where it belongs saves horseflesh.

Unthrashed cow pea hay, well cured, ranks among the best of dairy feed.

Successful hog raisers will always have clover alfalfa pastures for their animals.

Everybody is in danger of having a poor stand of corn unless the seed is tested.

A cheap paint can be made from a solution of borax and water mixed with linseed oil.

If you cultivate your orchard, see that the ground is kept finely mulched, in order to preserve the moisture the trees should have

SOMETHING FOR EVERYBODY

The temperature of steam at one pound pressure is 216.3. At thirty pounds pressure it is 274.3.

A 2,000-year-old oak tree stands near Dax, France, the branches of which shelter 500 persons.

Only about one of every thousand married couples lives to celebrate the golden wedding anniversary.

The great majority of immigrant arrivals at the present time are coming from Austria, Russia and Italy.

A grape basket more than sixteen feet long was made for exhibition in a recent parade at Westfield, N. Y.

News paper is made by machinery at the rate of 150 to 400 feet a minute, according to width and quality.

Lettuce as a food plant has a record of being eaten by Persian kings more than two thousand years ago.

The Carnegie Steel Company pays about one-seventh of the entire taxes collected by the city of Youngstown, Ohio.

Using electricity, Nome, Alaska, the most northerly town in America, is one of the best lighted cities in the world.

An elephant in the wild state has such a delicate sense of smell that it can detect an enemy nearly a mile away.

The first American flag ever made in the United States of America, made of bunting, recently was sold at auction in London.

Oklahoma has the greatest Indian population of any of the states. The last time they were counted there were 117,370 of them.

Chicago made a new building record for itself in 1909, when the cost of buildings of all kinds erected made a grand total of \$90,000,000.

A recently invented rescue stretcher for mines has oxygen tanks at one end opening into a bag into which a man's head and shoulders may be placed.

There has been invented in Spain a cylindrical barrel for grapes, divided into four sections, to ventilate the contents and prevent them being crushed.

The Marblehead, one of the oldest cruisers in the navy, has been commissioned in the service of the California state naval militia at Mare Island.

For use in manual training schools a Wisconsin man has patented a tool chest which may be converted into a work bench by clamping it to the top of two desks.

A balanced grand piano has been invented in England. One side is a duplicate of the other, and the lid is hinged in the center so as to distribute the sound waves evenly.

An arm to be suspended over a roll of wrapping paper, carrying a roller to imprint merchant's advertisement on every piece of paper torn off, is a New York man's invention.

A Pittsburg widow, who was compelled to sell her beautiful hair in order to keep her children from starving, has received an offer of marriage from a rich man in Oklahoma.

According to the last census there were in Holland about 2,620,000 head of live stock, nearly one-half cattle. The dairy ration is composed largely of oil meal or oil cake and grass or hay.

A metal seat, hinged and suspended by chains from a window casing, has been patented by an Ohio man for window cleaners as well as for use as a shelf on which food may be placed to cool.

Gold pieces are the only coins of the United States which are worth their face value intrinsically. A double eagle contains \$20 worth of gold, without counting the one-tenth part of copper.

On the principle of the slide trombone is a gas fixture invented by an Indiana man, so constructed that the burner may be slid to any point along the wall of a room where the light is most needed.

The Porto Rican agricultural experiment station reports that Java coffee growing is now being introduced into the island to meet the demand in the United States for "a highly flavored aromatic coffee."

For telephoning from a moving train an Iowa man has patented a device consisting of a metal bar to be suspended from a locomotive or car low enough to come in contact with standards set in the ties.

The first trust in the United States to pass the \$100,000,000 mark in capitalization was the United States Leather Company, organized in 1893. Its capital stock combined with an issue of bonds amounted to \$138,000,000.

To get rock for the Morena dam in Southern California, one of the biggest blasting operations on record has just been successfully carried out. A tunnel 125 feet long was first driven into the face of the granite. In this chamber was placed 38,950 pounds of powder and dynamite. This was exploded by electric fuses, and dislodged 120,000 cubic yards of rock.—Engineering Record.